

E-142, 002/SA-91-25 ORDER APPROVING CHANGES IN ASSIGNED SERVICE
AREAS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of a Petition of
Steele-Waseca Cooperative
Electric and Northern States
Power Company to Adjust Their
Mutual Service Territory
Boundary

ISSUE DATE: August 2, 1991

DOCKET NO. E-142, 002/SA-91-25

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PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 16, 1991, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (Steele-Waseca) and Northern States Power Company (NSP) filed a joint petition requesting changes in their mutual service area boundary. The two utilities were attempting to change five errors in their service area maps filed with the Commission in 1974. If the changes were effected, both utilities' service area maps would conform to actual field conditions.

The current errors in the service area maps consist of the following:

1. Steele-Waseca is presently serving five customers in Warsaw and Walcott Townships, Rice County, who are in NSP's service territory. The change would place these customers within Steele-Waseca's service area.
2. NSP is currently serving 60 customers in Shieldsville Township, Rice County, who are in Steele-Waseca's service territory. The change would place these customers within NSP's service area.
3. In the current maps there is a transcribing error which does not affect any customer.
4. Steele-Waseca is currently serving four customers in Danville Township, Blue Earth County, who are in NSP's service territory. The requested change would bring these customers within Steele-Waseca's service area.
5. NSP is presently serving five customers in New Richland Township, Waseca County, who are in Steele-Waseca's service territory. These customers would be placed within NSP's service area.

On February 20, 1991, the Department of Public Service (the Department) filed comments in support of the utilities' proposed boundary and clerical revisions.

On May 9, 1991, and again on June 14, 1991, the Commission sent a Notice of Commission Meeting to all interested parties, including affected customers. No one opposed the utilities' petition.

The matter came before the Commission on July 2, 1991.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

In this case the utilities began serving the customers outside their service area due to reliance on erroneous service area maps. The Commission agrees with the utilities that conforming the service maps to the actual service situation would be in the best interests of all concerned. Minnesota service area law and Commission policy favor stability in customer service. No party will be disrupted by the change in the service area maps, and no one opposes the revisions. The utilities will gain greater accuracy in their service area representations. The Commission will approve the utilities' petition.

The Commission reminds the utilities that under Minnesota law electric utilities may only serve customers outside their assigned service areas if they have received Commission approval after notice and hearing under Minn. Stat. § 216B.39 or service by exception is consented to under Minn. Stat. § 216B.40.

ORDER

1. The assigned service area boundary changes and clerical change requested in the petition are approved.
2. The Department of Public Service shall revise the official service area maps to reflect the changes approved herein.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)